ADA American Dental Association

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The Bureau of Economic and Behavioral Research

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The 1986 Survey of Dental Practice

Employment of Dental Practice Personnel

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EMPLOYMENT OF DENTAL PRACTICE PERSONNEL
FOR THE YEAR 1985

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HIGHLIGHTS

NOTE: COMPUTATION OF MEAN VALUES BASED ON LESS THAN 25 RESPONSES MAY NOT BE STATISTICALLY RELIABLE. USE CAUTION WHEN INTERPRETING TABLES WITH LOW "NUMBERS" OF RESPONSES.

* About 96.5% of all independent dentists employed at least some dental practice personnel on a full- or part-time basis; 56% employ at least one dental hygienist (full- or part-time); Ninety percent employ at least one chairside assistant (full- or part-time); and 9.5% employ at least one dental laboratory technician (full- or part-time).

* Among independent dentists who employed dental practice personnel, the average number of dental hygienists (full- or part-time) per dentist ranged from 1.01 for independent dentists graduating since 1980 to 1.7 for solo specialists; the average number of chairside assistants (full- or part-time) per dentist ranged from 1.23 for independent general practitioners graduating since 1980 to 2.01 for independent solo specialists.

* Among independent dentists, almost one-third (31.9%) employed full-time dental hygienists and over one-third (33.8%) employed at least one on a part-time basis; over three-quarters (80.9%) employed at least one full-time chairside assistant and 27.8% employed at least one on a part-time basis; 6.2% employed at least one full-time dental laboratory technician and 3.9% employed at least one on a part-time basis.

* There are some apparent differences in the employment of dental practice personnel between independent general practitioners and independent specialists. Among the general practitioners, 34.9% employed at least one full-time dental hygienist, specialists 16.1%; eighty percent of the general practitioners employed at least one full-time chairside assistant, specialists 85.5%; 4.8% of the general practitoners employed at least one full-time dental laboratory technician, specialists 13.5%.

INTRODUCTION

This report provides descriptive statistics from the 1986 Survey of Dental Practice examining different aspects (numbers and types) of personnel employed by independent dentists in 1985. Analyses are presented separately for independent (owner) dentists, solo dentists, and independent dentists graduating since 1980.

Data is presented separately for dental hygienists, chairside assistants, dental laboratory technicians, and all staff combined. The "all staff" category consists of the total number of dental hygienists, chairside assistants, dental laboratory technicians, secretaries and receptionists, bookkeepers and other business personnel. Dentists employed by the practice are NOT included.

Some of the data presented are: percent of dentists employing staff (full- and part-time), length of employment of dental hygienists and chairside assistants, weekly and hourly salary figures for dental hygienists and chairside assistants, number of patients treated by dental hygienists per week, and mean dental hygienists and chairside assistants per dentist. Detailed tables present figures for independent general practitioners and specialists separately, as well as an overall weighted average.

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS

Most independent dentists (96.5%) employed some full- or part-time staff. About 44% had between 1-3 employees, while about 53% employed 4 or more staff members.

Fewer dentists (90%) employed full-time staff. Over one-fourth (27.6%) of independent dentists employed 4 or more full-time staff members. Roughly 63% employed between 1-3 full-time personnel. Less than a quarter of independent dentists (21.7%) employed one part-time employee, while 41.3% employed no part-time personnel. The average number of personnel (full- or part-time) per dentist among dentists who employed personnel was 3.3.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Over half (56%) of the independent dentists employed at least one full- or part-time dental hygienist. More independent general practitioners than independent specialists employed dental hygienists. About seventy-four percent of the specialists employed no dental hygienists, while only 38.5% of general practitioners reported employing no dental hygienists.

Slightly more independent dentists employed part-time dental hygienists than full-time dental hygienists and considerably more general practitioners than specialists employed dental hygienists. Overall, about 32% of the independent dentists employed at least one full-time dental hygienist. Thirty- five percent of independent general practitioners employed at least one full-time dental hygienist, while the figure for independent specialists was only 16%. Almost 34% of independent dentists employed at least one part-time dental hygienist. Again, this figure differs substantially between independent general practitioners and specialists. About 37% of independent general practitioners employed at least one part-time dental hygienist, while only 16.7% of the independent specialists employed part-time dental hygienists.

Among all independent dentists, the number of full- or part-time dental hygienists per dentist was .66. The number of full-time dental hygienists per dentist was .28, while the average number of part-time dental hygienists per dentist was .38.

Among all independent dentists employing dental hygienists, the average number of full- or part-time dental hygienists per dentist was 1.18. This average is slightly lower for full-time dental hygienists, .87, while the average number of part-time dental hygienists per dentist was 1.14.

The average number of patients treated per week by dental hygienists was 39.4. This figure was lower for solo dentist practices (31.1), but in practices with three or more dentists the number of patients treated per week by dental hygienists increased to 77.1.

The overall mean length of dental hygienist employment in their current practice was 4.61 years. Dental hygienists' mean length of experience prior to employment in the current practice was 4.59 years, with no substantial differences between general practitioners and specialists. Dental hygienists have an average of 9.2 years of experience. This includes experience gained prior to and in their current practice.

The overall average weekly salary for a full-time (32 or more hours per week) dental hygienist was approximately $421.00. Dental hygienists in a solo dentist practice earned, on average, 4% less than those employed in a practice with 3 or more dentists. The overall mean hourly dental hygienist salary (full- or part-time) was $11.32.

CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

Most independent dentists (90%) reported employing 1 or more full- or part-time chairside assistant. The percentage was lower for independent general practitioners (89%) than for independent specialists (95.8%). Independent specialists employed greater numbers of chairside assistants than general practitioners. The percentage of independent specialists employing 3 or more (full- or part-time) chairside assistants was 44.8 as compared to 15.9 for independent general practitioners.

Over three-quarters (81%) of all independent dentists employ full-time chairside assistants. Among independent specialists, the percentage was 85.8%, for general practitioners, 80.1%. Over one quarter (27.8%) of all independent dentists employ part-time

chairside assistants. Among independent specialists, the percentage was somewhat higher, 35.7%; while independent general practitioners reported a slightly lower percentage, 26.3%.

Independent dentists reported an average of 1.28 (full- or part-time) chairside assistants per dentist. The average number of full-time chairside assistants per dentist was .97, while the average number of part-time chairside assistants was .31.

An average of 1.43 (full- or part-time) chairside assistants was reported among independent dentists who employed chairside assistants. The average declined to 1.20 for the number of full-time chairside assistants per dentist and to 1.13 for the number of part-time chairside assistants per dentist.

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Among independent dentists, 90.5% reported employing no full- or part-time dental laboratory technicians. The percentage was slightly higher for independent general practitioners (92.8%), and lower for specialists (78.1%).

Nearly 94% of all independent dentists reported employing no full-time dental laboratory technicians, and over 96% reported employing no part-time dental laboratory technicians.

The mean number of full- or part-time dental laboratory technicians per dentist was .08. The mean number of full- or part-time laboratory technicians among dentists employing them was .88.

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME PERSONNEL

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES						
NO EMPLOYEES	66	3.9	3	1.0	69	3.5
1 EMPLOYEE	160	9.5	10	3.3	170	8.5
2 EMPLOYEE	299	17.7	31	10.0	330	16.5
3 EMPLOYEE	327	19.4	49	16.2	377	18.9
4 EMPLOYEE	270	16.0	47	15.4	317	15.9
5 EMPLOYEE	201	11.9	44	14.5	245	12.3
6 EMPLOYEE	124	7.4	34	11.0	158	7.9
7 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	242	14.3	87	28.6	329	16.5
ALL	1690	100.0	305	100.0	1994	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME PERSONNEL

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES						
NO EMPLOYEES	178	10.5	23	7.4	201	10.0
1 EMPLOYEE	305	17.9	29	9.5	334	16.6
2 EMPLOYEE	483	28.4	54	17.5	537	26.7
3 EMPLOYEE	326	19.2	58	18.9	385	19.1
4 EMPLOYEE	172	10.1	42	13.7	215	10.7
5 EMPLOYEE	88	5.2	34	11.0	122	6.1
6 EMPLOYEE	41	2.4	16	5.3	58	2.9
7 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	107	6.3	51	16.6	158	7.9
ALL	1700	100.0	309	100.0	2009	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME PERSONNEL

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
PART-TIME EMPLOYEES	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NO EMPLOYEES	705	41.6	122	39.8	827	41.3
1 EMPLOYEE	366	21.6	69	22.5	435	21.7
2 EMPLOYEE	289	17.0	40	13.1	329	16.4
3 EMPLOYEE	181	10.7	28	9.2	210	10.5
4 EMPLOYEE	76	4.5	22	7.1	98	4.9
5 EMPLOYEE	41	2.4	14	4.4	55	2.7
6 EMPLOYEE	18	1.1	6	2.1	25	1.2
7 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	18	1.1	5	1.7	24	1.2
ALL	1695	100.0	306	100.0	2001	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN PERSONNEL PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
FULL- OR PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	3.00	1481	3.94	518	3.15	1999
FULL-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	1.97	1490	2.77	525	2.09	2015
PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	1.03	1486	1.19	520	1.05	2006

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN PERSONNEL PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS WITH EMPLOYEES

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
FULL- OR PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	3.13	1423	3.98	513	3.26	1936
FULL-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	2.20	1334	2.99	486	2.33	1820
PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	1.76	868	1.98	313	1.80	1181

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
NUMBER OF HYGIENISTS	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NO HYGIENISTS	656	38.5	231	74.4	887	44.0
1 HYGIENIST	642	37.7	39	12.7	682	33.8
2 HYGIENIST	274	16.1	18	5.7	291	14.5
3 OR MORE HYGIENISTS	133	7.8	22	7.2	156	7.7
ALL - WEIGHTED	1706	100.0	311	100.0	2016	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NO HYGIENISTS	1111	65.2	261	83.9	1372	68.0
1 HYGIENIST	491	28.8	32	10.4	523	25.9
2 HYGIENIST	73	4.3	12	3.8	85	4.2
3 OR MORE HYGIENISTS	31	1.8	6	1.9	37	1.8
ALL - WEIGHTED	1706	100.0	311	100.0	2016	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
PART-TIME HYGIENISTS	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NO HYGIENISTS	1078	63.0	259	83.3	1337	66.2
1 HYGIENIST	424	24.8	30	9.7	454	22.5
2 HYGIENIST	151	8.8	11	3.6	162	8.0
3 OR MORE HYGIENISTS	57	3.3	11	3.4	68	3.3
ALL - WEIGHTED	1710	100.0	311	100.0	2021	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN HYGIENIST PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIS	0.72	1495	0.37	528	0.66	2023
FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	0.30	1495	0.15	528	0.28	2023
PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	0.42	1499	0.21	528	0.38	2027

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN HYGIENIST PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS EMPLOYING HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIS	1.17	920	1.43	135	1.18	1055
FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	0.86	521	0.96	85	0.87	606
PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	1.13	554	1.26	88	1.14	642

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED BY HYGIENIST PER WEEK

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	V57		V57		V57	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
TOTAL DENTISTS						
1 DENTIST	30.8	597	36.0	67	31.1	664
2 DENTISTS	41.0	173	45.5	30	41.4	203
3 OR MORE DENTISTS	76.2	119	88.6	19	77.1	138
ALL	38.9	889	47.1	116	39.4	1005

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
HYGIENIST MEAN LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT (IN YEARS)

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT IN THIS PRACTICE	4.59	1198	4.92	184	4.61	1382
EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO EMPLOY IN THIS PRACT	4.59	1183	4.60	174	4.59	1357

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY ON A FULL- OR PART-TIME BASIS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
NUMBER OF DENTISTS						
ONE DENTIST	290.66	648	294.91	98	290.96	746
2 DENTISTS	314.89	247	335.96	36	316.36	283
3 OR MORE DENTISTS	365.48	215	338.13	32	363.53	247
ALL	310.54	1110	312.14	166	310.66	1276

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY ON A FULL-TIME BASIS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
NUMBER OF DENTISTS						
ONE DENTIST	410.40	221	431.99	33	411.95	254
2 DENTISTS	434.86	94	415.88	19	433.07	113
3 OR MORE DENTISTS	428.64	130	426.18	17	428.48	147
ALL	420.90	445	426.13	69	421.28	514

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY ON A FULL- OR PART-TIME BASIS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY		HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY		HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
NUMBER OF DENTISTS						
ONE DENTIST	13.62	638	13.65	96	13.62	734
2 DENTISTS	13.71	245	13.62	36	13.70	281
3 OR MORE DENTISTS	13.04	212	13.16	32	13.05	244
ALL	13.53	1095	13.55	164	13.53	1259

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL- OR PART-TIME ASSISTANTS						
NO ASSISTANTS	188	11.0	13	4.2	201	10.0
1 ASSISTANT	790	46.3	79	25.7	869	43.2
2 ASSISTANTS	456	26.8	78	25.3	535	26.6
3 OR MORE ASSISTANTS	270	15.9	138	44.8	409	20.3
ALL - WEIGHTED	1705	100.0	309	100.0	2013	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS						
NO ASSISTANTS	340	19.9	44	14.2	384	19.0
1 ASSISTANT	904	52.8	95	30.7	999	49.4
2 ASSISTANTS	324	18.9	76	24.7	400	19.8
3 OR MORE ASSISTANTS	143	8.3	94	30.4	237	11.7
ALL - WEIGHTED	1710	100.0	310	100.0	2020	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
PART-TIME ASSISTANTS						
NO ASSISTANTS	1257	73.7	199	64.3	1456	72.2
1 ASSISTANT	301	17.6	62	20.0	363	18.0
2 ASSISTANTS	122	7.2	24	7.8	146	7.3
3 OR MORE ASSISTANTS	26	1.5	25	8.0	51	2.5
ALL - WEIGHTED	1707	100.0	309	100.0	2016	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

EMPLOYMENT OF DENTAL PRACTICE PERSONNEL

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.17	1494	1.93	525	1.28	2019
FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	0.88	1499	1.44	527	0.97	2026
PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	0.28	1496	0.49	526	0.31	2022

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS EMPLOYING ASSISTANTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.31	1329	2.01	503	1.43	1832
FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.10	1201	1.68	452	1.20	1653
PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.07	394	1.37	188	1.13	582

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHNICIANS						
NO TECHNICIANS	1578	92.8	241	78.1	1819	90.5
1 TECHNICIAN	90	5.3	53	17.1	143	7.1
2 OR MORE TECHNICIANS	33	1.9	15	4.8	48	2.4
ALL	1701	100.0	309	100.0	2010	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS						
NO TECHNICIANS	1620	95.2	268	86.5	1888	93.8
1 TECHNICIAN	55	3.2	31	10.1	86	4.3
2 OR MORE TECHNICIANS	27	1.6	11	3.4	38	1.9
ALL	1702	100.0	310	100.0	2012	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
PART-TIME TECHNICIANS						
NO TECHNICIANS	1658	97.2	279	90.3	1937	96.1
1 TECHNICIAN	43	2.5	27	8.7	70	3.5
2 OR MORE TECHNICIANS	5	0.3	3	1.0	8	0.4
ALL	1706	100.0	309	100.0	2015	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHS PER DENTIST	0.06	1491	0.20	525	0.08	2016
FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	0.04	1492	0.12	527	0.05	2019
PART-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	0.02	1495	0.09	526	0.03	2021

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS
MEAN TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS EMPLOYING TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHS PER DENTIST	0.86	108	0.92	115	0.88	223
FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	0.79	72	0.86	71	0.81	143
PART-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	0.87	42	0.92	51	0.89	93

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

SOLO DENTISTS

Most solo dentists (95.3%) employed some full- or part-time staff. About 53% had between 1-3 employees, while 42.5% employed 4 or more staff members.

Fewer dentists (87.5%) employed full-time staff. Only 15.8% of solo dentists employed 4 or more full-time staff members. Less than three-quarters (71.8%) employed between 1-3 full-time personnel.

About a quarter of solo dentists (23.3%) employed one part-time employee, while 44% meployed no part-time personnel. The average number of personnel (full- or part-time) per dentist among dentists who employed personnel was 3.5.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Half (51%) of the solo dentists employed at least one full- or part-time dental hygienist. More solo general practitioners than solo specialists employed dental hygienists. About seventy-nine percent of the specialists employed no dental hygienists, while only about 44% of general practitioners reported employing no dental hygienists.

Slightly more solo dentists employed part-time dental hygienists than full-time dental hygienists and considerably more general practitioners than specialists employed dental hygienists. Overall, about 25% of the solo dentists employed at least one full-time dental hygienist. About 27.5% of solo general practitioners employed at least one full-time dental hygienist, while the figure for solo specialists was only 12.4%. About 31% of solo dentists employed at least one part-time dental hygienist. Again, this figure differs substantially between solo general practitioners and specialists. About 34% of solo general practitioners employed at least one part-time dental hygienist, while only 14% of the solo specialists employed part-time dental hygienists.

Among all solo dentists, the number of full- or part-time dental hygienists per dentist was .70. The number of full-time dental hygienists per dentist was .28, while the average number of part-time dental hygienists per dentist was .42.

Among all solo dentists employing dental hygienists, the average number of full- or part-time dental hygienists per dentist was 1.38. This average is slightly lower for full-time dental hygienists, 1.10, while the average number of part-time dental hygienists per dentist was 1.36.

The average number of patients treated per week by dental hygienists was 31. This figure was slightly higher for solo specialists (36.5), while dental hygienists working for solo general practitioners treated, on average, 30.7 patients per week.

The overall mean length of dental hygienist employment in their current practice was 4.4 years. Dental hygienists' mean length of experience prior to employment in the current practice was 4.9 years, with no substantial differences between general practitioners and specialists. Dental hygienists have an average of 9.3 years of experience. This includes experience gained prior to and in their current practice.

The overall average weekly salary for a full-time (32 or more hours per week) dental hygienist was approximately $412.00. Dental hygienists employed by a solo general practitioner earned, on average, 6.4% less ($409.74) than those employed by a solo specialist practice ($436.04). The overall mean hourly dental hygienist salary (full- or part-time) was $13.62.

CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

Over 87% of all solo dentists reported employing 1 or more full- or part-time chairside assistant. The percentage was similar for solo general practitioners (86.1%) but higher for solo specialists (95%). Solo specialists employed a greater percentage of chairside assistants than did general practitioners. The percentage of solo specialists employing 3 or more (full- or part-time) chairside assistants was 33.2 as compared to 5.0 for solo general practitioners.

Over three-quarters (76.7%) of all solo dentists employ full-time chairside assistants. Among solo specialists, the percentage was 81.8%, for general practitioners, 75.9%. Almost one quarter (24.7%) of all solo dentists employ part-time chairside

assistants. Among solo specialists, the percentage was somewhat higher, 35.2%; while solo general practitioners reported a slightly lower percentage, 22.9%.

Solo dentists reported an average of 1.35 (full- or part-time) chairside assistants per dentist. The average number of full-time chairside assistants per dentist was 1.00, while the average number of part-time chairside assistants was .35.

An average of 1.54 (full- or part-time) chairside assistants was reported among solo dentists who employed chairside assistants. The average declined to 1.30 for the number of full-time chairside assistants per dentist and to 1.40 for the number of part-time chairside assistants per dentist.

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Among solo dentists, 93.3% reported employing no full- or part-time dental laboratory technicians. The percentage was slightly higher for solo general practitioners (95.6%), and lower for specialists (81.8%).

Over 96% of all solo dentists reported that they did not employ part-time dental laboratory technicians.

The mean number of full- or part-time dental laboratory technicians per dentist was .08. The mean number of full- or part-time laboratory technicians among dentists employing them was 1.16.

SOLO DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME PERSONNEL

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES						
NO EMPLOYEES	66	5.4	2	0.9	68	4.7
1 EMPLOYEE	151	12.2	9	4.5	159	11.1
2 EMPLOYEE	264	21.3	28	13.9	291	20.3
3 EMPLOYEE	267	21.6	39	19.9	306	21.4
4 EMPLOYEE	214	17.4	39	19.9	254	17.7
5 EMPLOYEE	140	11.4	35	17.5	175	12.2
6 EMPLOYEE	80	6.5	22	11.0	102	7.1
7 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	54	4.3	25	12.5	78	5.5
ALL	1236	100.0	198	100.0	1434	100.0

SOLO DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME PERSONNEL

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES						
NO EMPLOYEES	161	12.9	19	9.4	180	12.5
1 EMPLOYEE	281	22.6	25	12.6	306	21.2
2 EMPLOYEE	395	31.8	47	23.5	442	30.6
3 EMPLOYEE	244	19.7	44	22.1	288	20.0
4 EMPLOYEE	104	8.4	27	13.5	131	9.1
5 EMPLOYEE	39	3.1	24	12.1	63	4.4
6 EMPLOYEE	15	1.2	7	3.5	22	1.5
7 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	5	0.4	6	3.2	11	0.8
ALL	1242	100.0	200	100.0	1442	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

SOLO DENTISTS
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME PERSONNEL

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
PART-TIME EMPLOYEES	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NO EMPLOYEES	556	44.8	78	39.3	634	44.0
1 EMPLOYEE	288	23.2	48	24.0	335	23.3
2 EMPLOYEE	205	16.5	31	15.7	237	16.4
3 EMPLOYEE	121	9.7	16	8.0	137	9.5
4 EMPLOYEE	38	3.0	16	8.0	54	3.7
5 EMPLOYEE	19	1.6	4	2.1	24	1.6
6 EMPLOYEE	9	0.7	4	1.8	13	0.9
7 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	6	0.5	2	1.2	8	0.6
ALL	1241	100.0	199	100.0	1440	100.0

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN PERSONNEL PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
FULL- OR PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	3.18	1083	4.29	337	3.33	1420
FULL-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	2.04	1089	2.89	340	2.16	1429
PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	1.13	1088	1.43	338	1.17	1426

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN PERSONNEL PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS WITH EMPLOYEES

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
FULL- OR PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	3.36	1025	4.33	334	3.50	1359
FULL-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	2.34	948	3.19	308	2.47	1256
PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	2.05	601	2.36	205	2.09	806

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

SOLO
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NUMBER OF HYGIENISTS						
NO HYGIENISTS	552	44.3	158	78.6	710	49.0
1 HYGIENIST	489	39.2	25	12.3	514	35.5
2 HYGIENIST	168	13.4	9	4.7	177	12.2
3 OR MORE HYGIENISTS	38	3.0	9	4.4	46	3.2
ALL	1247	100.0	201	100.0	1448	100.0

SOLO
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS						
NO HYGIENISTS	905	72.6	176	87.7	1081	74.6
1 HYGIENIST	315	25.3	21	10.6	336	23.2
2 HYGIENIST	22	1.7	3	1.5	25	1.7
3 OR MORE HYGIENISTS	6	0.5	1	0.3	6	0.4
ALL	1247	100.0	201	100.0	1448	100.0

SOLO
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
PART-TIME HYGIENISTS						
NO HYGIENISTS	826	66.0	172	85.9	998	68.8
1 HYGIENIST	308	24.6	18	8.8	326	22.4
2 HYGIENIST	96	7.7	6	2.9	102	7.0
3 OR MORE HYGIENISTS	22	1.7	5	2.3	26	1.8
ALL	1252	100.0	201	100.0	1452	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN HYGIENIST PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIS	0.76	1093	0.38	341	0.70	1434
FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	0.30	1093	0.14	341	0.28	1434
PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	0.45	1097	0.23	341	0.42	1438

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN HYGIENIST PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS EMPLOYING HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIS	1.36	609	1.77	73	1.38	682
FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	1.10	300	1.17	42	1.10	342
PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	1.34	373	1.67	48	1.36	421

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED BY HYGIENIST PER WEEK

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	V57		V57		V57	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
TOTAL DENTISTS						
1 DENTIST	30.7	590	36.5	64	31.1	654
ALL	30.7	590	36.5	64	31.1	654

SOLO DENTISTS
HYGIENIST MEAN LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT (IN YEARS)

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT IN THIS PRACTICE	4.43	709	4.60	103	4.44	812
EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO EMPLOY IN THIS PRACT	4.88	696	4.48	94	4.86	790

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY ON A FULL- OR PART-TIME BASIS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
NUMBER OF DENTISTS						
ONE DENTIST	289.77	640	293.36	96	290.02	736
ALL	289.77	640	293.36	96	290.02	736

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY ON A FULL-TIME BASIS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
NUMBER OF DENTISTS						
ONE DENTIST	409.74	217	436.04	31	411.54	248
ALL	409.74	217	436.04	31	411.54	248

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY ON A FULL- OR PART-TIME BASIS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY		HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY		HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
NUMBER OF DENTISTS						
ONE DENTIST	13.61	631	13.75	94	13.62	725
ALL	13.61	631	13.75	94	13.62	725

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

SOLO
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
FULL- OR PART-TIME ASSISTANTS	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NO ASSISTANTS	173	13.9	10	5.0	183	12.7
1 ASSISTANT	689	55.3	67	33.5	756	52.3
2 ASSISTANTS	322	25.8	56	28.2	378	26.1
3 OR MORE ASSISTANTS	63	5.0	66	33.2	129	8.9
ALL	1247	100.0	200	100.0	1447	100.0

SOLO
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NO ASSISTANTS	301	24.1	36	18.2	338	23.3
1 ASSISTANT	758	60.6	78	38.7	835	57.6
2 ASSISTANTS	185	14.8	50	24.9	235	16.2
3 OR MORE ASSISTANTS	7	0.5	36	18.2	43	3.0
ALL	1250	100.0	201	100.0	1451	100.0

SOLO
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
PART-TIME ASSISTANTS	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NO ASSISTANTS	963	77.1	128	64.1	1091	75.3
1 ASSISTANT	202	16.2	42	21.2	244	16.9
2 ASSISTANTS	73	5.8	17	8.5	90	6.2
3 OR MORE ASSISTANTS	11	0.9	12	6.2	24	1.6
ALL	1249	100.0	200	100.0	1449	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

EMPLOYMENT OF DENTAL PRACTICE PERSONNEL

SOLO DENTISTS
CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.23	1093	2.10	340	1.35	1433
FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	0.92	1096	1.51	341	1.00	1437
PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	0.31	1095	0.59	340	0.35	1435

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS EMPLOYING ASSISTANTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.42	941	2.21	323	1.54	1264
FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.21	832	1.84	279	1.30	1111
PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.34	251	1.66	122	1.40	373

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

SOLO
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHNICIANS						
NO TECHNICIANS	1182	95.1	164	81.8	1346	93.3
1 TECHNICIAN	51	4.1	31	15.6	83	5.7
2 OR MORE TECHNICIANS	9	0.7	5	2.6	14	1.0
ALL	1242	100.0	200	100.0	1442	100.0

SOLO
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS						
NO TECHNICIANS	1213	97.5	180	90.0	1393	96.5
1 TECHNICIAN	25	2.0	19	9.4	44	3.0
2 OR MORE TECHNICIANS	6	0.5	1	0.6	7	0.5
ALL	1244	100.0	200	100.0	1444	100.0

SOLO
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
PART-TIME TECHNICIANS						
NO TECHNICIANS	1215	97.4	182	90.6	1397	96.5
1 TECHNICIAN	31	2.5	16	8.2	47	3.3
2 OR MORE TECHNICIANS	1	0.1	2	1.2	3	0.2
ALL	1247	100.0	201	100.0	1448	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHS PER DENTIST	0.06	1089	0.21	340	0.08	1429
FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	0.03	1090	0.11	340	0.04	1430
PART-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	0.03	1093	0.11	341	0.04	1434

SOLO DENTISTS
MEAN TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS EMPLOYING TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHS PER DENTIST	1.17	53	1.15	62	1.16	115
FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	1.22	27	1.06	34	1.16	61
PART-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	1.04	28	1.12	32	1.07	60

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980

Most independent dentists graduating since 1980 (98.6%) employed some full- or part-time staff. More than half (58.3%) had between 1-3 employees, while 40.4% employed 4 or more staff members. About 22% employed three full- or part-time personnel.

Fewer independent dentists graduating since 1980 (87%) employed full-time staff. About 16% of independent dentists graduating since 1980 employed 4 or more full-time staff members. Roughly 72% employed 1-3 full-time personnel. About 36% employed 2 full-time personnel.

About a fifth of independent dentists graduating since 1980 (21%) employed one part-time employee, while 42.4% employed no part-time personnel. The average number of personnel (full- or part-time) per dentist among dentists who employed personnel was 2.6.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Over half (51%) of the independent dentists graduating since 1980 employed at least one full- or part-time dental hygienist. Slightly more independent dentists graduating since 1980 employed part-time dental hygienists than full-time dental hygienists. Overall, about 20% of the independent dentists graduating since 1980 employed at least one full-time dental hygienist. About 21% of independent general practitioners employed at least one full-time dental hygienist. Almost 35% of independent dentists graduating since 1980 employed at least one part-time dental hygienist.

Among all independent dentists graduating since 1980, the number of full- or part-time dental hygienists per dentist was .51. The number of full-time dental hygienists per dentist was .15, while the average number of part-time dental hygienists per dentist was .37.

Among all independent dentists graduating since 1980 employing dental hygienists, the average number of full- or part-time dental hygienists per dentist was 1.01. This average is lower for full-time dental hygienists, .72, while the average number of part-time dental hygienists per dentist was 1.06.

The average number of patients treated per week by dental hygienists was 24.5. This figure was lower for solo dentist practices (17.4), but in practices with three or more dentists, the number of patients treated per week by dental hygienists increased to 48.1.

The overall mean length of dental hygienist employment in their current practice was 2.8 years. Dental hygienists' mean length of experience prior to employment in the current practice was 4.3 years. Dental hygienists have an average of 7 years of experience. This includes experience gained prior to and in their current practice. The overall average weekly salary for a full-time (32 or more hours per week) dental hygienist was approximately $466.00. The overall mean hourly dental hygienist salary (full- or part-time) was $12.44.

CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

About 88% of all independent dentists graduating since 1980 reported employing 1 or more full- or part-time chairside assistant. Three-quarters (75.5%) of all independent dentists graduating since 1980 employed full-time chairside assistants.

Independent dentists graduating since 1980 reported an average of 1.08 (full- or part-time) chairside assistants per dentist. The average number of full-time chairside assistants per dentist was .74, while the average number of part-time chairside assistants was .35.

An average of 1.23 (full- or part-time) chairside assistants was reported among independent dentists graduating since 1980 who employed chairside assistants. The average declined to .98 for the number of full-time chairside assistants per dentist and to 1.21 for the number of part-time chairside assistants per dentist.

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Among independent dentists graduating since 1980, 91% reported employing no full- or part-time dental laboratory technicians.

Over 94% of all independent dentists graduating since 1980 reported that they did not employ full-time dental laboratory technicians, and about 96% reported employing no part-time dental laboratory technicians.

The mean number of full- or part-time dental laboratory technicians per dentist was .10. The mean number of full- or part-time laboratory technicians among dentists employing them was 1.08.

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME PERSONNEL

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES						
NO EMPLOYEES	2	1.4	0	0	2	1.4
1 EMPLOYEE	18	11.1	0	0	18	11.0
2 EMPLOYEE	41	25.0	1	50.0	42	25.2
3 EMPLOYEE	37	22.2	0	0	37	22.1
4 EMPLOYEE	24	14.6	0	0	24	14.5
5 EMPLOYEE	22	13.2	0	0	22	13.1
6 EMPLOYEE	9	5.6	0	0	9	5.5
7 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	11	6.9	1	50.0	12	7.3
ALL	164	100.0	1	100.0	165	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME PERSONNEL

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES						
NO EMPLOYEES	22	13.1	0	0	22	13.0
1 EMPLOYEE	33	20.0	1	50.0	34	20.2
2 EMPLOYEE	60	36.6	0	0	60	36.3
3 EMPLOYEE	25	15.2	0	0	25	15.1
4 EMPLOYEE	9	5.5	0	0	9	5.5
5 EMPLOYEE	8	4.8	0	0	8	4.8
6 EMPLOYEE	2	1.4	0	0	2	1.4
7 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	6	3.4	1	50.0	6	3.8
ALL	165	100.0	1	100.0	167	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME PERSONNEL

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
PART-TIME EMPLOYEES	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NO EMPLOYEES	70	42.4	1	50.0	70	42.4
1 EMPLOYEE	34	20.8	1	50.0	35	21.0
2 EMPLOYEE	27	16.7	0	0	27	16.5
3 EMPLOYEE	25	15.3	0	0	25	15.2
4 EMPLOYEE	5	2.8	0	0	5	2.8
5 EMPLOYEE	1	0.7	0	0	1	0.7
6 EMPLOYEE	1	0.7	0	0	1	0.7
7 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	1	0.7	0	0	1	0.7
ALL	164	100.0	1	100.0	165	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN PERSONNEL PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
FULL- OR PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	2.57	144	2.50	2	2.57	146
FULL-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	1.56	145	2.25	2	1.56	147
PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	1.00	144	0.25	2	1.00	146

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN PERSONNEL PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS WITH EMPLOYEES

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
FULL- OR PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	2.61	142	2.50	2	2.61	144
FULL-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	1.79	126	2.25	2	1.80	128
PART-TIME PERSONNEL PER DENTIST	1.74	83	0.50	1	1.73	84

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
NUMBER OF HYGIENISTS						
NO HYGIENISTS	81	49.0	1	50.0	82	49.0
1 HYGIENIST	64	38.6	1	50.0	64	38.7
2 HYGIENIST	16	9.7	0	0	16	9.6
3 OR MORE HYGIENISTS	5	2.8	0	0	5	2.7
ALL - WEIGHTED	165	100.0	1	100.0	167	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS						
NO HYGIENISTS	131	79.3	1	100.0	132	79.5
1 HYGIENIST	32	19.3	0	0	32	19.2
2 HYGIENIST	2	1.4	0	0	2	1.4
ALL - WEIGHTED	165	100.0	1	100.0	167	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
PART-TIME HYGIENISTS						
NO HYGIENISTS	108	65.5	1	50.0	109	65.4
1 HYGIENIST	43	26.2	1	50.0	44	26.4
2 HYGIENIST	11	6.9	0	0	11	6.8
3 OR MORE HYGIENISTS	2	1.4	0	0	2	1.4
ALL - WEIGHTED	165	100.0	1	100.0	167	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN HYGIENIST PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIS	0.52	145	0.25	2	0.51	147
FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	0.15	145	0.00	2	0.15	147
PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	0.37	145	0.25	2	0.37	147

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN HYGIENIST PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS EMPLOYING HYGIENISTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIS	1.01	74	0.50	1	1.01	75
FULL-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	0.72	30	.	0	0.72	30
PART-TIME HYGIENISTS PER DENTIST	1.07	50	0.50	1	1.06	51

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED BY HYGIENIST PER WEEK

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	V57		V57		V57	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
TOTAL DENTISTS						
1 DENTIST	17.4	45	0	0	17.4	45
2 DENTISTS	32.6	17	5.0	1	31.8	18
3 OR MORE DENTISTS	48.1	8	0	0	48.1	8
ALL	24.6	70	5.0	1	24.5	71

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
HYGIENIST MEAN LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT (IN YEARS)

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	N	MEAN	N	MEAN	N
LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT IN THIS PRACTICE	2.79	78	0.17	1	2.78	79
EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO EMPLOY IN THIS PRACT	4.30	78	1.00	1	4.28	79

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY ON A FULL- OR PART-TIME BASIS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
NUMBER OF DENTISTS						
ONE DENTIST	203.90	37	0	0	203.90	37
2 DENTISTS	381.09	20	85.00	1	373.65	21
3 OR MORE DENTISTS	326.99	13	0	0	326.99	13
ALL	277.38	70	85.00	1	275.98	71

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY ON A FULL-TIME BASIS

	TYPE OF DENTIST			
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY		WEEKLY HYGIENIST SALARY	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
NUMBER OF DENTISTS				
ONE DENTIST	346.34	5	346.34	5
2 DENTISTS	561.31	9	561.31	9
3 OR MORE DENTISTS	429.98	7	429.98	7
ALL	466.35	21	466.35	21

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY ON A FULL- OR PART-TIME BASIS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY		HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY		HOURLY HYGIENIST SALARY	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
NUMBER OF DENTISTS						
ONE DENTIST	11.31	37	0	0	11.31	37
2 DENTISTS	14.65	20	14.17	1	14.63	21
3 OR MORE DENTISTS	12.21	13	0	0	12.21	13
ALL	12.43	70	14.17	1	12.44	71

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

FULL- OR PART-TIME ASSISTANTS	TYPE OF DENTIST: GENERAL PRACTITIONER — WEIGHTED NUMBER	GENERAL PRACTITIONER — WEIGHTED PERCENT	SPECIALIST — WEIGHTED NUMBER	SPECIALIST — WEIGHTED PERCENT	ALL - WEIGHTED — WEIGHTED NUMBER	ALL - WEIGHTED — WEIGHTED PERCENT
NO ASSISTANTS	19	11.7	0	0	19	11.6
1 ASSISTANT	83	50.3	1	50.0	84	50.3
2 ASSISTANTS	38	22.8	0	0	38	22.6
3 OR MORE ASSISTANTS	25	15.2	1	50.0	26	15.4
ALL - WEIGHTED	165	100.0	1	100.0	167	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS	TYPE OF DENTIST: GENERAL PRACTITIONER — WEIGHTED NUMBER	GENERAL PRACTITIONER — WEIGHTED PERCENT	SPECIALIST — WEIGHTED NUMBER	SPECIALIST — WEIGHTED PERCENT	ALL - WEIGHTED — WEIGHTED NUMBER	ALL - WEIGHTED — WEIGHTED PERCENT
NO ASSISTANTS	41	24.7	0	0	41	24.5
1 ASSISTANT	92	55.5	1	50.0	93	55.4
2 ASSISTANTS	23	13.7	0	0	23	13.6
3 OR MORE ASSISTANTS	10	6.2	1	50.0	11	6.5
ALL - WEIGHTED	167	100.0	1	100.0	168	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS

PART-TIME ASSISTANTS	TYPE OF DENTIST: GENERAL PRACTITIONER — WEIGHTED NUMBER	GENERAL PRACTITIONER — WEIGHTED PERCENT	SPECIALIST — WEIGHTED NUMBER	SPECIALIST — WEIGHTED PERCENT	ALL - WEIGHTED — WEIGHTED NUMBER	ALL - WEIGHTED — WEIGHTED PERCENT
NO ASSISTANTS	118	71.0	1	100.0	119	71.2
1 ASSISTANT	32	19.3	0	0	32	19.2
2 ASSISTANTS	10	6.2	0	0	10	6.2
3 OR MORE ASSISTANTS	6	3.4	0	0	6	3.4
ALL - WEIGHTED	165	100.0	1	100.0	167	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.08	145	1.75	2	1.08	147
FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	0.73	146	1.75	2	0.74	148
PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	0.35	145	0.00	2	0.35	147

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS EMPLOYING ASSISTANTS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.22	128	1.75	2	1.23	130
FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	0.97	110	1.75	2	0.98	112
PART-TIME ASSISTANTS PER DENTIST	1.21	42	0.00	0	1.21	42

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHNICIANS						
NO TECHNICIANS	149	91.0	1	100.0	151	91.0
1 TECHNICIAN	8	4.9	0	0	8	4.8
2 OR MORE TECHNICIANS	7	4.2	0	0	7	4.1
ALL	164	100.0	1	100.0	165	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS						
NO TECHNICIANS	156	94.5	1	100.0	157	94.5
1 TECHNICIAN	2	1.4	0	0	2	1.4
2 OR MORE TECHNICIANS	7	4.1	0	0	7	4.1
ALL	165	100.0	1	100.0	167	100.0

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
PERCENT OF DENTISTS EMPLOYING PART-TIME TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED		WEIGHTED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
PART-TIME TECHNICIANS						
NO TECHNICIANS	157	95.8	1	100.0	159	95.9
1 TECHNICIAN	6	3.5	0	0	6	3.4
2 OR MORE TECHNICIANS	1	0.7	0	0	1	0.7
ALL	164	100.0	1	100.0	165	100.0

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHS PER DENTIST	0.10	144	0.00	2	0.10	146
FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	0.06	145	0.00	2	0.06	147
PART-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	0.04	144	0.00	2	0.04	146

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS GRADUATING SINCE 1980
MEAN TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST AMONG DENTISTS EMPLOYING TECHNICIANS

	TYPE OF DENTIST					
	GENERAL PRACTITIONER		SPECIALIST		ALL - WEIGHTED	
	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER	MEAN	NUMBER
FULL- OR PART-TIME TECHS PER DENTIST	1.08	13	0.00	0	1.08	13
FULL-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	1.07	8	0.00	0	1.07	8
PART-TIME TECHNICIANS PER DENTIST	0.92	6	0.00	0	0.92	6

SOURCE: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

Methodology and Definitions

INTRODUCTION

The 1986 Survey of Dental Practice (SDP) is a continuation of the series of surveys that have been conducted every two to three years since the early 1950's, annually since 1982, by the American Dental Association's Bureau of Economic and Behavioral Research. The purpose of the survey is to provide reliable information on selected characteristics of private practice in the United States.

The 1986 SDP consisted of detailed questions dealing with expenses of operating a private practice, net and gross income from the private practice of dentistry, the number of patient visits to the dentist, hours and weeks worked in the practice, occupational status and employment status, practice personnel mix, auxiliary employment and wages, and other selected characteristics.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 1986 SDP was a condensed version of the long-form 1985 SDP. This short-form of the survey was sent to 4% of the dentists who were known to be actively engaged in the private practice of dentistry.

Sampling

The population consisted of 129,039 dentists who, based on the 1982 Distribution of Dentists, were known to be in private practice, even if only part-time.

The Distribution of Dentists is a dental census that is conducted periodically by the American Dental Association. Although the 1982 Distribution is the most recent complete census, the sampling frame is updated periodically by adding information about recent graduates, retirement and deaths when available. Dentists with an unknown practice type were included in the sampling frame.

The sample was ordered by type of practice - general practitioner or specialist. Within each type, the sample was sorted by dental school and graduation year. A random sample from each type of practice was selected. Since specialists comprise a small percentage of the dental population it was necessary to oversample (i.e., the proportion of specialists sampled is higher than the actual percentage of specialists in the total population) to ensure adequate numbers for statistical analysis. It should be noted that the sample was drawn in such a way

as to be able to make statements about general practitioners and specialists as a whole. We may not have, for any given specialty, enough dentists responding to make reliable statements about that individual specialty.

Data Collection

The 1986 SDP was initially mailed in April, 1986. Two follow-up mailings to non-respondents occurred in May and June, 1986. Coding, hand-editing, and computer processing were completed by October, 1986. The final response rate was computed after the individuals who were either retired, disabled, deceased, not in private practice, or had unknown addresses were eliminated from the sample. The adjusted sample size was used to calculate the final response rate of 50.4%.

Weighting the Sample

Since the proportion of specialists in the sample is higher than the actual percentage in the dental population, it is necessary to account for this imbalance when making statements about the total dental population. The correction is accomplished by developing and applying a weighting factor to each sampled dentist.

Weights were calculated for general practitioners and specialists separately, by dividing the percentage of each in the population by the percentage in the sample. The assumed proportion of general practitioners in the population is 85%, specialists, 15%. The percentage of general practitoners in the sample is 74.5%, specialists, 25.5%.

The weights were computed as follows:

General Practitioner - .85/.745 = 1.140939

Specialist - .15/.255 = 0.588235

These weights were employed in the calculations of means and medians where general practitioners and specialists were combined - where statements were made about "all" independent or solo dentists.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions of several terms and phrases are provided in this section to assist with the interpretation of data contained in the tables. In general, the dentists included in this report were working in private practice as a primary occupation. In addition, all dentists had started in their current (i.e., 1986) practice prior to 1985.

ALL DENTISTS: This group of dentists contains all dentists responding to the survey, including those who are employed by a dentist or dental practice.

DENTAL PRACTICE PERSONNEL (ALL STAFF): This group includes dental hygienists, chairside assistants, dental laboratory technicians, secretary/ receptionists, bookkeepers and other office personnel. Dentists employed by the practice are NOT included.

FULL-TIME and PART-TIME: For purposes of this report, full-time was defined as working in the practice at least 32 hours per week. Part-time was defined as working in the practice less than 32 hours per week.

HOURLY SALARY: The hourly salary reported is computed by dividing the weekly salary by the number of hours worked.

INDEPENDENT DENTISTS: All dentists who own or share in the ownership of a dental practice are independent dentists. This ownership status includes sole proprietorship, partnership and a shareholder in an incorporated practice.

MEAN: This is the simple average of values reported by the dentists responding to the survey. The mean is calculated by summing the values reported and then dividing the sum by the number of dentists reporting values.

MEAN PER YEAR: Several variables in the tables are reported as means per year (e.g., mean number of appointments per year). The per year figures were determined by multiplying the per week values reported by dentists, by the number of weeks worked in the office for the year.

NONOWNER DENTISTS (EMPLOYED): This group includes all dentists who work in a dental practice on a salary, commission, percentage or associate basis.

NONSOLO DENTISTS: Nonsolo dentists work in a dental practice with at least one other dentist. Some of these dentists may be employed by the owner dentists in the practice.

PATIENT NO-SHOWS: The total of patient no-shows was defined as the difference between the number of patient appointments and the number of scheduled visits. It was assumed that the number of scheduled visits were equal to or less than the number of patient appointments.

REGIONS: The following is a breakdown of the states in each region.

New England: CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT
Middle Atlantic: NJ, NY, PA
East North Central: IL, IN, MI, OH, WI
West North Central: EA, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD
South Atlantic: DE, MD, DC, FL, GA, NC, SC, VA, WV
East South Central: AL, KY, MS, TN
West South Central: AR, LA, OD, TX
Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY
Pacific: AK, CA, HI, OR, WA

SCHEDULED VISITS: Scheduled visits are the patient appointments who were present in the office for treatment.

SOLO DENTISTS: All dentists who work in private practice with no other dentists are solos. A solo dentist is also a sole proprietor or the only shareholder in an incorporated practice.

TOTAL PATIENT VISITS: Total patient visits is the sum of walk-in visits, emergency visits, and scheduled visits.

WEIGHTING: Since specialists comprise a smaller percentage of the dental population, it was necessary to oversample them to insure adequate numbers for statistical analysis. The proportion of specialists in the sample is higher than the actual proportion of specialists in the total population of dentists. Please note that individual specialties were not oversampled, and, therefore, only statistics on specialists as a group are presented. Statistics computed for All Dentists were weighted to reflect national proportions.

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1986 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

Please answer all questions by **circling** the number corresponding to the most appropriate response, except where a fill in the blank is requested.

1. Which of the following **best** describes your primary and/or secondary occupation(s) during 1985? Please circle **one** response for **EACH** column.)

	Primary Occupation	Secondary Occupation
a. Private practice (full- or part-time)	00	00
b. Dental school faculty/staff member	01	01
c. Armed Forces	02	02
d. Other federal services (e.g., VA, PHS)	03	03
e. State or local government employed	04	04
f. Hospital staff dentist	05	05
g. Intern/resident	06	06
h. Other student	07	07
i. Other health/dental organization staff member (e.g., NIDR)	08	08
j. Not in practice/retired	09	09
k. Occupation unrelated to dentistry	10	10
l. **NO SECONDARY OCCUPATION**	—	11

Please complete the remainder of this questionnaire if you were in **PRIVATE PRACTICE** during **ANY PART** of 1985 as:

1. a **PRIMARY** occupation, **OR**
2. a **SECONDARY** occupation, **OR**
3. both a **PRIMARY** and **SECONDARY** occupation.

If you were **NOT INVOLVED** in the **PRIVATE PRACTICE** of dentistry during any part of 1985 please **RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE.** Thank you.

INDIVIDUAL DENTIST QUESTIONS

The following questions pertain to you as an individual private practitioner. If you changed practices (i.e., worked in more than one **PRIMARY** practice during 1985), please give information on the practice in which you treated patients for the greatest number of months.

2. Are you currently **ANNOUNCING** yourself and practicing as a specialist in an ADA recognized specialty area (dental public health, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral pathology, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, or prosthodontics)?

Yes 1
No 2

	Primary Practice	Secondary Practice
3. In what year did you **FIRST** become associated with the primary/secondary practice where you practiced during 1985?	19 ____	19 ____

4. Which **ONE** of the following **BEST** describes your employment status when you **FIRST** became associated with that practice?

	Primary Practice	Secondary Practice
a. Sole proprietor (i.e., the only owner) in an unincorporated dental practice	1	1
b. Partner in a complete or limited partnership	2	2
c. Shareholder in an incorporated dental practice	3	3
d. Employed by an incorporated dental practice on a salary, commission, percentage, or associate basis but not a shareholder	4	4
e. Employed by an unincorporated dental practice on a salary, commission, percentage, or associate basis	5	5
f. Independent contractor	6	6
g. Other, please specify ____		

5. Which **ONE** of the following **BEST** describes your employment status in that practice during 1985?

	Primary Practice	Secondary Practice
a. Sole proprietor (i.e., the only owner) in an unincorporated dental practice	1	1
b. Partner in a complete or limited partnership	2	2
c. Shareholder in an incorporated dental practice	3	3
d. Employed in an incorporated dental practice on a salary, commission, percentage, or associate basis but not a shareholder	4	4
e. Employed in an unincorporated dental practice on a salary, commission, percentage, or associate basis	5	5
f. Independent contractor	6	6
g. Other, please specify ____		

	Primary Practice	Secondary Practice
6. What was the zip code of your practice(s) during 1985?	____	____
	zip code	

5. Please provide the following for **EACH DENTAL HYGIENIST** in the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE** during 1985. If the practice did not employ someone in these positions, please check the appropriate box in the first column.

DENTAL HYGIENIST (S):	Not applicable (Please check boxes)	1985 ANNUAL Salary/ Commission (in dollars)	Weeks Worked in 1985	Hours Worked per Week	Length of Experience PRIOR to Employment in this Practice		Length of Employment in this Practice	
Position #1	☐	$ _____ per year	_____ weeks	_____ hours	_____ years	_____ months	_____ years	_____ months
Position #2	☐	$ _____ per year	_____ weeks	_____ hours	_____ years	_____ months	_____ years	_____ months
Position #3	☐	$ _____ per year	_____ weeks	_____ hours	_____ years	_____ months	_____ years	_____ months

16. Approximately what percentage of the patients who visited the primary practice:

	Entire Practice Patient Characteristics
a. were:	
14 years of age or younger	_____ %
15 to 64 years of age	_____ %
65 years of age or older	_____ %
	TOTAL 100 %
b. were members of families whose annual income is estimated to be:	
under $10,000	_____ %
$10,000 to 29,999	_____ %
$30,000 or more	_____ %
	TOTAL 100 %
c. were:	
covered by a private insurance program that pays or partially pays for their dental care	_____ %
covered by a public assistance program that pays or partially pays for their dental care	_____ %
not covered by an insurance program	_____ %
	TOTAL 100 %
d. were members of a racial minority	_____ %

If you were a solo practitioner during 1985, please skip to question 18.

17. Please indicate the following regarding patient care by the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE** during 1985:

The average number of:	Entire Practice
a. **APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED** per week (**EXCLUDING** those with hygienist appointments only)	_____ appointments per week
b. **WALK-IN VISITS** per week that were treated (i.e., non-emergency and no appointment scheduled) If none, enter zero	_____ visits per week
c. **EMERGENCY VISITS** per week (i.e., no appointment scheduled) If none, enter zero	_____ visits per week
d. **SCHEDULED VISITS** per week that were **ACTUALLY** treated (**EXCLUDING** those with hygienist appointments only)	_____ visits per week

18. In the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE**, what was the **total amount of fees charged** for the dental care provided during 1985 **(annual billing)**? $ _____.00

19. What percentage of the **GROSS RECEIPTS** were received: (If none, enter zero.)

	Gross Receipts
a. as direct patient payment	_____ %
b. as payment from government programs (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, or other public insurance)	_____ %
c. as direct payment from private insurance carriers	_____ %
d. from other sources of payment (Please specify) _____	_____ %
	TOTAL 100 %

20. During 1985, were any of the expenses of the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE** (dental facilities or staff) shared with other dentists?

Yes 1
No 2

If you shared expenses (dental facilities or staff) with any other practice, please report **YOUR PRIMARY PRACTICE** expenses only.

21. For the following selected items, what were the **TOTAL PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES** for the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE** during 1985? (If no expenses were incurred for specific items, please enter zero.)

	Expenses
a. Yearly rent	$ _____.00
b. Yearly mortgage (including interest)	$ _____.00
c. Total salaries, wages and commissions of non-dentists employees	$ _____.00
d. Commercial dental laboratory charges	$ _____.00
e. Dental supplies	$ _____.00
f. Advertising expenses	$ _____.00
g. Bad debts	$ _____.00

22. What were the **TOTAL PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES** of operating the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE** during 1985? $ _____.00
(This figure should be greater than the sum of the figures in question 21.)

Thank you for your assistance in this important research project. Please return this questionnaire by folding and place tape as indicated. Drop it in the mail.

7. Please indicate the following regarding patient care that **YOU PERSONALLY** provided during 1985?

	Primary Practice	Secondary Practice
The average number of:		
a. **APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED** per week (**EXCLUDING** those with hygienist appointments only)	_____ appointments per week	
b. **WALK-IN VISITS** per week that **YOU** treated (i.e., non-emergency and no appointment scheduled.) (If none, enter zero.)	_____ visits per week	
c. **EMERGENCY VISITS** per week that **YOU** treated (i.e., no appointment scheduled.) (If none, enter zero.)	_____ visits per week	
d. **SCHEDULED VISITS** per week that **YOU ACTUALLY** treated (**EXCLUDING** those with hygienist appointments only	_____ visits per week	

8. Please answer the following about the time **YOU PERSONALLY** spent in the practice(s) during 1985.

	Primary Practice	Secondary Practice
a. Total number of weeks worked (excluding vacation)	_____ weeks	
b. Total number of **HOURS PER WEEK** spent in the practice	_____ hours per week	
c. Number of hours per week spent **TREATING PATIENTS** in the practice	_____ hours per week	

9. What was **YOUR** 1985 net income (after practice expenses and business taxes) from: (Please include salary, commission and or dividends.)

	Net Income
a. Your primary practice	$ _____ 00
b. Your secondary practice (if applicable)	$ _____ 00
c. Other income from dentistry (i.e., teaching, research, other practice, etc.)	$ _____ 00

If you were in private practice as a **PRIMARY OCCUPATION** during 1985, please continue.

If you were **NOT** in private practice as a **PRIMARY OCCUPATION** during 1985, **DO NOT CONTINUE.** Please return the questionnaire. Thank you.

ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE CHARACTERISTICS

10. **INCLUDING YOURSELF,** please indicate the number of full- or part-time **DENTIST POSITIONS** in the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE** during 1985. (If none, enter zero.)

	Number of Dentist Positions
a. Number of **OWNER** dentists (i.e., sole proprietor, partners, or shareholders)	_____
b. Number of **NON-OWNER** dentists (i.e., employed dentists, associates and non-shareholders) If none, enter zero	_____

11. Please indicate the number of full-time (32 hours per week or more) and part-time (less than 32 hours per week) **EMPLOYEE POSITIONS** in the **PRIMARY PRACTICE** during 1985. (If none, enter zero.)

	Number of Employee Positions	
	full-time	part-time
a. Dental hygienist(s)	_____	_____
b. Chairside assistant(s)	_____	_____
c. Secretary/receptionist(s)*	_____	_____
d. Dental laboratory technician(s)	_____	_____
e. Bookkeeper, business personnel	_____	_____
f. Other, please specify _____	_____	_____

***NOTE:** A secretary or receptionist who also provides chairside assistance at least 50% of the time should be counted as a chairside assistant.

If the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE** employed any dental hygienists in 1985, please continue. If **no** hygienists were employed, skip to question 16.

12. Please provide the following regarding all dental hygienist(s) appointments and visits in the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE** during 1985.

	Dental Hygienist(s)
The average number of:	
a. **APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED** per week primarily for hygienist(s) treatment	_____ appointments per week
b. **SCHEDULED VISITS** per week that were actually treated by all hygienist(s)	_____ visits per week

13. Which of the following was the predominant method of reimbursing dental hygienist(s) in the **ENTIRE PRIMARY PRACTICE**? (Circle one.)

a. Salary only 1
b. Commission only 2
c. Salary plus commission 3
d. Other, please specify _____

14. Do you consider dental hygienists to be an employee of your practice or an independent contractor? (Circle one.)

a. employee 1
b. independent contractor 2
c. Other, please specify _____